

Opening Remarks

2010 Senior Regulators' Meeting

Thursday, 23 September 2010

9:00 — 17:00

ACV

Meeting Room E1

Mr. Denis Flory

Deputy Director General

Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security

International Atomic Energy Agency

Welcome and Introduction

- Good morning ladies and gentlemen and distinguished senior regulators. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2010 session of the Senior Regulators' Meeting.
- Each year during the Agency's General Conference, this meeting is organized to provide a forum for senior regulators from our Member States to exchange information and experience on current regulatory, policy and technical issues in nuclear safety and security. This meeting also promotes active interaction among senior policy makers of the larger nuclear community attending the General Conference and related events.
- Let me take this opportunity at the outset to introduce the Chairpersons of this year's meeting, Mr. Mike Weightman, from the UK will chair this morning's session. Mike is responsible for nuclear safety and security of the civilian nuclear industry, and the safety of the defence nuclear industry. He acts on behalf of UK Government at a variety of forums—most recently spearheading a Transition Transformation programme to prepare HSE's Nuclear Directorate to be able to operate as a stand-alone integrated nuclear regulator, enabling Nuclear Regulators to better face challenges of the future.
- Our afternoon session will be chaired by Professor Agnès Buzyn, who is chairperson of the Board of Directors of Institut de Radioprotection et de Sûreté Nucléaire (IRSN), France.

- She is a physician and professor of Haematology in Necker Hospital, University Paris Descartes. She leads research activities focusing on projects in the field of leukaemia and bone marrow transplants. Prof. Agnès Buzyn conducts research in the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM).
- Her background as a medical doctor and her leadership of IRSN gives her a complete vision of the important role played by technical safety organizations (TSOs) for regulatory control in the medical area.

The challenges ahead and the programme today.

- As you know, the Senior Regulators' Meeting is the only worldwide annual meeting that provides a unique opportunity for top regulators from many countries to share their experience and to discuss ways to meet current and future regulatory and policy challenges.
- Among these challenges, the programme today will address two main topics: 1) harmonization and effective use of the IAEA Safety Standards in the morning session; and, 2) ensuring the infrastructure for the safe use of radiation in medicine to be discussed in the afternoon session. These are not new challenges, but important ones that require in-depth thought and innovative approaches to further streamline their development.

- For example, in terms of harmonization, the experience from the European Commission and the views from the CSS will provide you with an opportunity to discuss possible further actions to be taken at the national, regional and global levels to ensure harmonized use of the IAEA Safety Standards. As you are aware, the international safety standards are now recognized more and more as the global reference used in national regulations and in meeting provisions under international safety related instruments. Initiatives and networks such as the EU Directives, MDEP, ENSREG, WENRA and the Asian Nuclear Safety Network have largely contributed to the harmonized use of these standards..

Another important challenge we face concerns feedback from the use and application of safety standards necessary for revising and improving them: we are still lacking a systematic and consistent mechanism to collect and use feedback from the use of the existing standards. The presentation on current and prospective feedback mechanisms will show a new systematic and harmonised approach to manage feedback, This feedback will, inter alia, include and build upon existing Knowledge Networks, Safety Standards Committees and the CSS, the advisory services and peer reviews such as IRSS and related regular workshops to share knowledge, experience and lessons learned toward continuous improvement of the Global Nuclear Safety Regime/Framework. Such IRSS workshops took place in March 2007 in Paris, and in Sevilla, Spain in 2008. And, we expect that the next

workshop will take place in Asia or North America, as several IRRS missions were undertaken or are currently underway in these regions.

- Further, I expect that through the discussion today, you will, identify the role regulators would play to contribute to this feedback at the national, regional and global levels.

In addition, this afternoon we will discuss one of the most important challenges we are facing today and that is: which infrastructure is needed for the improvement of safety in the medical use of radiation?

This session will first highlight the main causes of incidents and accidents or incorrect exposure in the medical area, including events involving spent/unused sources, and then will exchange experience on the infrastructure needed in order to avoid such accidents and incidents.

- In particular it is important to analyse the role of each player, the safety authority, the health authority, the professional organization, the practitioners, the designers of equipment, and so forth. Medical technology using ionizing radiation is continuing to evolve rapidly, with new technology and techniques being introduced at a fast rate. This technology is now also increasingly reaching developing countries with less adequate infrastructure.

Concluding Remarks:

- In concluding my remarks, I would like to reemphasize that at this Senior Regulator's Meeting we should work towards the

development of concrete actions and outcomes to address the important issues and challenges we face today. Our actions and outcomes from this meeting should also be followed up in the coming months in various fora, including the upcoming CSS meeting at the end of this month and the International Conference on the Challenges faced by TSOs in enhancing Nuclear Safety and Security scheduled for 24-29 October, 2010 in Tokyo. We hope that through today's discussion we will be able to identify key regulatory, policy and structural issues that should be addressed so that significant progress can be achieved to improve safety globally.

- Finally, let me also take this opportunity to thank the Senior Regulators for their collective leadership, expertise and hard work. They are a tremendous asset to the IAEA.
- With that said, colleagues, let us welcome Mr. Weightman, Chair Person for the first session.